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Voltaire P. Twombly

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employed by the Clarksons, the proprietors of the *State Register*, for three years, except for a short time he spent in Denver working on the *Rocky Mountain News*. In 1871 he assisted in establishing the *Traveller*, but in 1876 became a partner in the ownership of the *Vinton Eagle*. In 1886 he became the sole owner of the *Eagle*, and continued as such until 1913 when his son became part owner with him. For some years he was a member of the city council of Vinton. He was postmaster at Vinton from 1897 to 1904, and state printer from 1901 to 1906. He was an alternate delegate to the Republican national convention at Minneapolis in 1892 and was a presidential elector on the Republican ticket in 1916. He was grand chancellor of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, Knights of Pythias, in 1901 and was representative to the supreme lodge of that order from 1912 until the time of his death. He was aiding in his work for the Iowa College for the Blind at Vinton, and his work for Linnie Hagewood, the blind and deaf girl, the Helen Keller of Iowa, will long be remembered. His interest in education was such that he was appointed as a member of the Better School Commission. His greatest work, however, was on the editorial page of his paper. In originality and in creative and constructive power he was not excelled by any writer in the state. He took an active part in district and state editorial association meetings, and for years attended them and always gave interest and inspiration by his presence. He was also a well known figure at Republican district and state conventions, where he had a large influence. He had good judgment, good ability, rugged honesty, a sense of humor and a love of his fellow men that made of him a real leader in Iowa.

Volney P. Twomey was born near Farmington, Van Buren County, Iowa, February 21, 1842, and died at Des Moines, February 21, 1948. His parents had emigrated from Massachusetts with the Pico-Tough Group, founded by Abner Kneeland near Farmington in 1839 and named Sabinville. A few months after his birth his father died and the widowed mother with her infant son removed to Keosauqua. There he attended public school and Lane's Academy. He volunteered as a private in Company F, Second Iowa Infantry and was wounded in May, 27, 1861. In October, 1861, he was promoted to seventh corporal and elected as a color bearer. In the famous charge on Ft. Donelson, five color bearers of his regiment were shot down in succession, when he caught up the colors and although knocked down once by a spent ball, succeeded in carrying them forward and planting them on top of the enemy's works. He was then promoted to lieutenant. At Corinth he was severely wounded and again at Jonesboro. In June, 1864, he was promoted to adjutant of the regiment and in November became captain of Company K. In 1865 he was acting inspector general of the 15th Army Corps. He was mustered out July 12, 1865, returned home, attended Bryant & Stratton's Business College at Burlington for

awhile, and then was two years at Ottumwa in the grain, flour and grocery business. Removing to Pittsburg, Van Buren County, he followed milling nine years, when he removed to Keosauqua and engaged in the mercantile business. In 1880 he was elected county treasurer of Van Buren County and was re-elected two years later. In 1884 he was elected treasurer of state and was twice re-elected, serving until January, 1891. Soon thereafter he entered the Home Savings Bank of Des Moines as its president and acted in that capacity for ten years. The last few years of his life were spent in retirement. He was quiet and unobtrusive, but was held in high esteem because of his integrity and good judgment.

EDWARD HOOKER GILLETTE was born at Bloomfield, Connecticut, October 1, 1840, and died at his home near Valley Junction, Iowa, August 14, 1918. He graduated from the Hartford, Connecticut, High School and the New York State Agricultural College at Ovid, New York. Intending to devote himself to agriculture, on leaving college in 1863 he came to Iowa, bought a farm in Dallas county and engaged in raising high-bred stock. Shortly thereafter he bought a farm immediately west of Des Moines at the end of Grand Avenue and adjoining what is now the city of Valley Junction. He made his home for a while in Des Moines and was interested not only in farming but in manufacturing and in other business enterprises. He became active in farmers' organizations, especially in their contests with railroad corporations and with the barbed wire trusts. He was an active organizer of the Anti-monopoly party in 1874 and the Greenback party in 1876. In 1876 he was a delegate to the national convention of the Greenback party that nominated Peter Cooper for president, and that year he took an active part in the campaign, speaking in many states. In 1878 the Greenback party of the Seventh Iowa District nominated him for congress, and the Democratic party fusing with it, he was elected and served in the Forty-sixth Congress. In 1880 he was renominated but was defeated by John A. Kasson. Mr. Gillette and General Weaver having started the *State Tribune*, Mr. Gillette became its editor in 1881 and remained such until 1891. For over twenty years he was active in politics, speaking in practically every state in the union. He was chairman of the national committee of the Greenback party at one time and chairman of the state committee of the Union Labor party for several years. He was the nominee of the Democratic party in 1898 for auditor of state. The later years of his life were spent in quiet retirement in his home near Valley Junction.

NATHANIEL FRENCH was born at Andover, Massachusetts, September 7, 1854, and died at Tucson, Arizona, February 14, 1929. Burial was at Davenport, Iowa. When a child he removed with his parents to Davenport. There he attended common school and Griswold College and completed his education at Harvard and Heidelberg universities.

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